

# EXHIBIT 7

# Fax Transmission

**To:** DHS

**From:** Reporters Committee

**Fax:** 12023434011

**Date:** 3/20/2019 12:35:42 PM PDT

**RE:** FOIA Request

**Pages:** 36

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## Comments:

Please see attached request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, to the Department of Homeland Security

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1020  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 795-9300  
[www.rcfp.org](http://www.rcfp.org)

Bruce D. Brown  
Executive Director  
[bbrown@rcfp.org](mailto:bbrown@rcfp.org)  
(202) 795-9301

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*Senior Advisor:*  
PAUL STEIGER  
*ProPublica*

*Affiliations appear only  
for purposes of identification.*

Adam A. Marshall  
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press  
1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1020  
Washington, DC 20005  
[amarshall@rcfp.org](mailto:amarshall@rcfp.org)

Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C.  
Fax: (202) 343-4011

March 20, 2019

**VIA FAX**

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter constitutes a request under the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (“FOIA”), and is submitted on behalf of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (“Reporters Committee” or “RCFP”) to the United States Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). The Reporters Committee is a nonprofit association dedicated to protecting First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.<sup>1</sup>

**I. Background**

Last year, the DHS announced that it intended to create “Media Monitoring Services,” a database that would track almost 300,000 news sources globally in order to identify top “media influencers” and all coverage related to DHS or a particular event.<sup>2</sup> DHS’s statement of work for the media monitoring database described it database as being capable of, *inter alia*, creating “media lists based on beat, location, outlet type/size, and journalist role” and analyzing news coverage according to “content” and “sentiment.”<sup>3</sup>

On March 6, 2019, NBC 7 San Diego reported that the United States government has targeted journalists who have been covering issues regarding migrants from Central America at the U.S. southern border.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, it has “created a secret database of activists, journalists, and social media influencers tied to the migrant caravan and in some cases, placed alerts on their passports.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See generally [www.rcfp.org](http://www.rcfp.org).

<sup>2</sup> Ex. A.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; *Statement of Work (SOW) For Media Monitoring Services*, Dep’t of Homeland Sec. (Apr. 3, 2018), <https://epic.org/foia/dhs/media-monitoring-services/EPIC-v-DHS-18-1268-draft-sow.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See Ex. B; archived at <https://perma.cc/QKM5-RME2>.

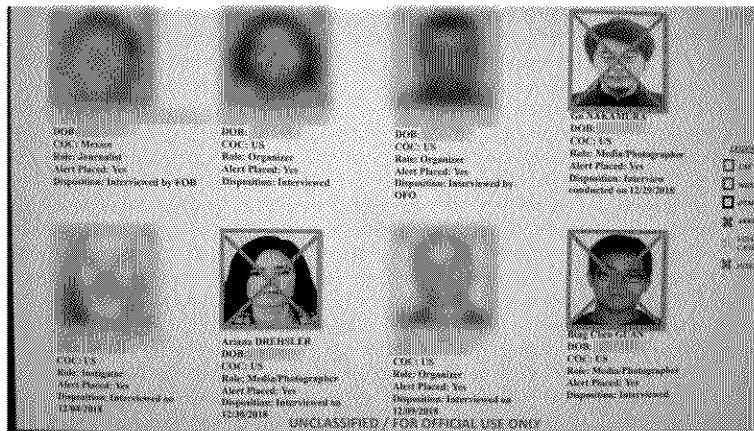
<sup>5</sup> Ex. B.

One photojournalist targeted by the United States government “said she was pulled into secondary inspections three times and asked questions about who she saw and photographed in Tijuana shelters.”<sup>6</sup> And another photojournalist “said she spent 13 hours detained by Mexican authorities when she tried to cross the border into Mexico City. Eventually, she was denied entry into Mexico and sent back to the U.S.”<sup>7</sup>

The NBC 7 story includes several United States government documents and screenshots, including from an application/database used by agents from Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”).<sup>8</sup> One document is titled “San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch: Migrant Caravan FY-2019, Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators and Media”:<sup>9</sup>



The documents and screenshots also show individuals selected by the United States government for inclusion in the application/database, including at least ten journalists, seven of whom are United States citizens<sup>10</sup>:



<sup>6</sup> Ex. B.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Ex. C, available at <https://www.nbcstandiego.com/multimedia/PHOTOS-Leaked-Documents-to-NBC-7-Investigates-506782041.html>.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

According to the NBC 7 article, the United States government has also created dossiers on each person in the application/database.<sup>11</sup>

On or about March 7, 2019, CBP spokesperson Andrew Meehan stated that “CBP has policies in place that prohibit discrimination against arriving travelers and has specific provisions regarding encounters with journalists.”<sup>12</sup>

## II. Requested Records

Pursuant to the FOIA, I, on behalf of the Reporters Committee, request access to and copies of the following records:

1. All emails, memoranda, or other forms of communication directing the establishment of the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>13</sup>;
2. All memoranda, protocols, guidelines, or other written instructions setting forth which agency employees have access to the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>14</sup>;
3. Any and all Privacy Impact Assessments conducted for the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>15</sup>;
4. All System of Records Notices (“SORNs”) for the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>16</sup>;
5. All policies, practices, procedures, and/or protocols that prohibit discrimination against arriving travelers, as referenced in Mr. Meehan’s statement<sup>17</sup>;
6. Any and all policies, practices, procedures, and/or protocols that have specific provisions regarding encounters with journalists, as referenced in Mr. Meehan’s statement<sup>18</sup>;
7. All communications, memos, protocols, or guidelines discussing or referring to any interaction between DHS’s Media Monitoring Services database<sup>19</sup> and the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>20</sup>;

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<sup>11</sup> Ex. B.

<sup>12</sup> Exh. D., archived at <https://perma.cc/5N6V-CFV7>.

<sup>13</sup> See Exs. B, C

<sup>14</sup> See *id.*

<sup>15</sup> See *id.*

<sup>16</sup> See *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> Exh. D.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> See *supra* note 3.

<sup>20</sup> See Exs. B, C.

8. All memoranda, protocols, guidelines, or other written instructions setting forth criteria or process(es) for creating a dossier on a member of the news media;
9. All emails, memoranda, or other forms of written or electronic communication, from January 1, 2017 to present, that mention or reference “ILU-OASISS-OMEGA” and “media” or “reporter” or “journalist”;
10. All emails to, from, copying, or blind copying any email address ending in “.eop.gov”, from January 1, 2017 to present, that contain “media” or “reporter” or “journalist” and any of the following terms or phrases:
  - a. “caravan”
  - b. “migrant caravan”
  - c. “southern border”
  - d. “Mexican border”
  - e. “migrants”
  - f. “refugees”;
11. All emails to, from, copying, or blind copying any email address ending in “.fbi.gov”, from January 1, 2017 to present, that mention or refer to the application(s)/database(s) described in the NBC 7 article and accompanying screenshots/documents<sup>21</sup>;
12. All emails, memoranda, or other forms of written or electronic communication, from January 1, 2017, to present, that include “media” or “reporters” or “journalist” and any of the following terms:
  - a. “screening”
  - b. “scrutiny”
  - c. “searches”
  - d. “secondary”
  - e. “passport”.

Please provide all responsive records in electronic format.

## **II. Fees and Fee Categorization**

As a representative of the news media, the Reporters Committee is only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). This information is being sought on behalf of the Reporters Committee for, *inter alia*, analysis and free dissemination to the general public through multiple avenues, including RCFP’s website,<sup>22</sup> social media accounts,<sup>23</sup> and email newsletters.<sup>24</sup> These records are not being sought for commercial purposes.

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<sup>21</sup> See *id.*

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.rcfp.org/>.

<sup>23</sup> See, e.g., <https://twitter.com/rcfp> (~15.2 thousand followers as of March 19, 2019);

<https://www.facebook.com/ReportersCommittee/> (7,913 “likes” as of March 19, 2019).

<sup>24</sup> <https://rcfp.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=682100887bbcfff066b451132&id=8f701b284f>.

In the event that there are fees for responding to this request, the Reporters Committee is willing to pay up to \$50. Please let me know in advance if fees for responding to this request will exceed that amount before proceeding.

**III. Conclusion**

If this request is denied in whole or part, please justify all such denials by reference to specific exemptions and explain why DHS “reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest” protected by that exemption or why “disclosure is prohibited by law[.]” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8). Please also ensure that all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material are released.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me at amarshall@rcfp.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Adam A. Marshall  
Knight Foundation Litigation Attorney  
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

# EXHIBIT A



Law Firms > Regulatory & Compliance

# Homeland Security to Compile Database of Journalists, Bloggers

Cary O'Reilly - Bloomberg Law, Daniel Snyder - Bloomberg Law

April 4, 2018



- *Seeks contractor that can monitor 290,000 global news sources*
- *'Media influencer' database to note 'sentiment' of coverage*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants to monitor hundreds of thousands of news sources around the world and compile a database of journalists, editors, foreign correspondents, and bloggers to identify top "media influencers."

It's seeking a contractor that can help it monitor traditional news sources as well as social media and identify "any and all" coverage related to the agency or a particular event, according to a request for information released April 3. The data to be collected includes a publication's "sentiment" as well as geographical spread, top posters, languages,

Homeland Security to Compile Database of Journalists, Bloggers

momentum, and circulation. No value for the contract was disclosed.

"Services shall provide media comparison tools, design and rebranding tools, communication tools, and the ability to identify top media influencers," according to the statement. DHS agencies have "a critical need to incorporate these functions into their programs in order to better reach federal, state, local, tribal, and private partners," it said.

The DHS wants to track more than 290,000 global news sources, including online, print, broadcast, cable, and radio, as well as trade and industry publications, local, national and international outlets, and social media, according to the documents. It also wants the ability to track media coverage in more than 100 languages including Arabic, Chinese, and Russian, with instant translation of articles into English.



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seal.  
Bloomberg

The request comes amid heightened concern about accuracy in media and the potential for foreigners to influence U.S. elections and policy through "fake news." Nineteen lawmakers including Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.), Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions last month, asking whether Qatar-based Al Jazeera should register as a foreign agent because it "often directly undermines" U.S. interests with favorable coverage of Hamas, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda's branch in Syria.

The DHS request says the selected vendor will set up an online "media influence database" giving users the ability to browse based on location, beat, and type of influence. For each influencer found, "present contact details and any other information that could be relevant, including publications this influencer writes for, and an overview of the previous coverage published by the media influencer."

A department spokesman didn't immediately return a phone call and email seeking comment.

Responses are due April 13. Seven companies, mainly minority- or women-owned small businesses, have already expressed interest in becoming a vendor

for the contract, according to the  
FedBizOpps web site.

With assistance from Daniel Snyder

To contact the reporter on this story: Cary  
O'Reilly in Washington at  
[coreilly@bgov.com](mailto:coreilly@bgov.com)

To contact the editors responsible for this  
story: Loren Duggan at  
[lduggan@bgov.com](mailto:lduggan@bgov.com); Robin Meszoly at  
[rmeszoly@bgov.com](mailto:rmeszoly@bgov.com); Theresa Barry at  
[tbarry@bgov.com](mailto:tbarry@bgov.com)

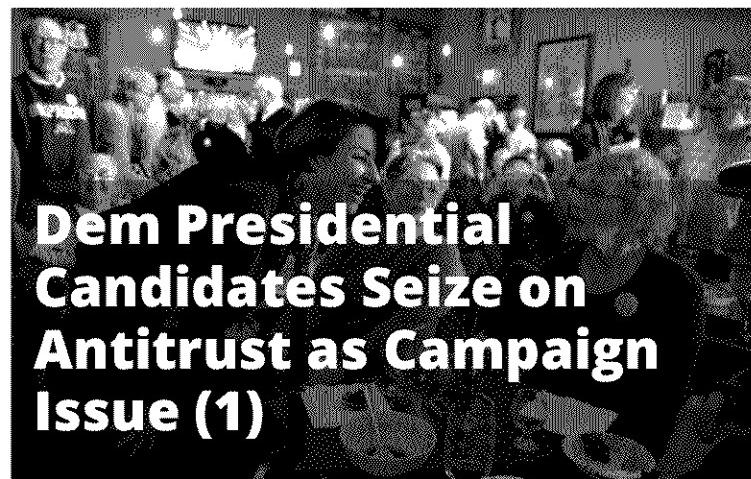
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# EXHIBIT B

# Source: Leaked Documents Show the U.S. Government Tracking Journalists and Immigration Advocates Through a Secret Database

**The documents detail an intelligence-gathering effort by the United States and Mexican authorities, targeting more than 50 people including journalists, an attorney, and immigration advocates**

By Tom Jones, Mari Payton and Bill Feather

Published Mar 6, 2019 at 3:57 PM | Updated at 9:26 AM PST on Mar 8, 2019

The U.S. government created a secret database of activists, journalists, and social media influencers tied to the migrant caravan. NBC 7's Mari Payton has more. (Published Wednesday, March 6, 2019)

This story has been updated with a new statement from Customs and Border Protection and a response from the ACLU.

Documents obtained by NBC 7 Investigates show the U.S. government created a secret database of activists, journalists, and social media influencers tied to the migrant caravan and in some cases, placed alerts on their passports.

At the end of 2018, roughly 5,000 immigrants from Central America made their way north through Mexico to the United States southern border. The story made international headlines.

As the migrant caravan reached the San Ysidro Port of Entry in south San Diego County, so did journalists, attorneys, and advocates who were there to work and witness the events unfolding.

But in the months that followed, journalists who covered the caravan, as well as those who offered assistance to caravan members, said they felt they had become targets of intense inspections and scrutiny by border officials.

One photojournalist said she was pulled into secondary inspections three times and asked questions about who she saw and photographed in Tijuana shelters. Another photojournalist said she spent 13 hours detained by Mexican authorities when she tried to cross the border into Mexico City. Eventually, she was denied entry into Mexico and sent back to the U.S.

These American photojournalists and attorneys said they suspected the U.S. government was monitoring them closely but until now, they couldn't prove it.

## RELATED STORIES



[Leaked Documents Show the Government Tracking Journalists](#)



[House Committee Calls Secret Database 'Troubling'](#)



[Government's Surveillance of Journalists Reminds Media Expert of 60s](#)



[Activists Recall CBP Interrogations, Skeptical of Reasons for Database](#)

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Now, documents leaked to NBC 7 Investigates show their fears weren't baseless. In fact, their own government had listed their names in a secret database of targets, where agents collected information on them. Some had alerts placed on their passports, keeping at least two photojournalists and an attorney from entering Mexico to work.

The documents were provided to NBC 7 by a Homeland Security source on the condition of anonymity, given the sensitive nature of what they were divulging.

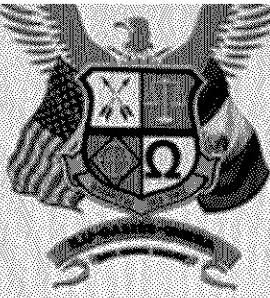
The source said the documents or screenshots show a SharePoint application that was used by agents from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Border Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations and some agents from the San Diego sector of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

The intelligence gathering efforts were done under the umbrella of "Operation Secure Line," the operation designated to monitor the migrant caravan, according to the source.

The documents list people who officials think should be targeted for screening at the border.

The individuals listed include ten journalists, seven of whom are U.S. citizens, a U.S. attorney, and 48 people from the U.S. and other countries, labeled as organizers, instigators or their roles "unknown." The target list includes advocates from organizations like Border Angels and Pueblo Sin Fronteras.

**To view the documents, [click here](#) or the link below.**



# San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch

Migrant Caravan FY-2019  
Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators, and Media

01/09/2019

## PHOTOS: Leaked Documents Show Government Tracking Journalists, Immigration Advocates

NBC 7 Investigates is blurring the names and photos of individuals who haven't given us permission to publish their information.

The documents are titled "San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch: Migrant Caravan FY-2019, Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators and Media" and are dated January 9, 2019.

Emblazoned on it are the American and Mexican flags, with a banner that reads: "ILU-OASSIS-OMEGA." An official at the Department of Homeland Security said the seal indicates that the documents are a product of the International Liaison Unit (ILU), which coordinates intelligence between Mexico and the United States.



This seal is emblazoned in the leaked documents to NBC 7 Investigates.

For each person, the documents show their photo, often from their passport but in some cases from their social media accounts, along with their personal information. That information includes the person's date of birth, their "country of commencement," and their alleged role tied to the migrant caravan. The information also includes whether officials placed an alert on the person's passport.

Some individuals have a colored "X" over their photo, indicating whether they were arrested, interviewed, or had their visa or SENTRI pass revoked by officials.

In addition to flagging the individuals for secondary screenings, the Homeland Security source told NBC 7 that the agents also created dossiers on each person listed.

"We are a criminal investigation agency, we're not an intelligence agency," the Homeland Security source told NBC 7 Investigates. "We can't create dossiers on people and they're creating dossiers. This is an abuse of the Border Search Authority."

One dossier, shared with NBC 7, was on Nicole Ramos, the Refugee Director and attorney for Al Otro Lado, a law center for migrants and refugees in Tijuana, Mexico. The dossier included personal details on Ramos, including specific details about the car she drives, her mother's name, and her work and travel history.

After sharing the documents with Ramos, she said Al Otro Lado is seeking more information on why she and other attorneys at the law center have been targeted by border officials.

"The document appears to prove what we have assumed for some time, which is that we are on a law enforcement list designed to retaliate against human rights defenders who work with asylum seekers and who are critical of CBP practices that violate the rights of asylum seekers," Ramos told NBC 7 by email.

In addition to the dossier on Ramos, a list of other dossier files created was shared with NBC 7. Two of the dossier files were labeled with the names of journalists but no further details were available. Those journalists were also listed as targets for secondary screenings.

Customs and Border Protection has the authority to pull anyone into secondary screenings, but the documents show the agency is increasingly targeting journalists, attorneys, and immigration advocates. Former counterterrorism officials say the agency should not be targeting individuals based on their profession.

NBC 7 Investigates sent the information to all border and law enforcement agencies the source listed, asking whether the information was valid and if these tactics were legal.

A Customs and Border Protection spokesperson did not answer NBC 7's list of questions or confirm the validity of the documents shared.

By email, the spokesperson said, "Criminal events, such as the breach of the border wall in San Diego, involving assaults on law enforcement and a risk to public safety, are routinely monitored and investigated by authorities."

To read CBP's full statement, [click here](#).

"It is protocol following these incidents to collect evidence that might be needed for future legal actions and to determine if the event was orchestrated," the statement read. "CBP and our law enforcement partners evaluate these incidents, follow all leads garnered from information collected, conduct interviews and investigations, in preparation for, and often to prevent future incidents that could cause further harm to the public, our agents, and our economy."

#### **UPDATE - 4:20 p.m.**

Minutes after our story published and five days after a Customs and Border Protection spokesperson gave us the agency's statement above, CBP told our colleagues at NBC News that the names in the database are all people who were present during violence that broke out at the border in November. The agency also said journalists are being tracked so that the agency can learn more about what started that violence. CBP never clarified that point directly to NBC 7 Investigates.

#### **UPDATE - 8:20 p.m.**

Staff attorney Esha Bhandari with the ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, called the government's targeting of journalists and migrants "outrageous."

"This is an outrageous violation of the First Amendment. The government cannot use the pretext of the border to target activists critical of its policies, lawyers providing legal representation, or journalists simply doing their jobs. We are exploring all options in response," Bhandari said.

Senior staff attorney Mitra Ebadolahi with the ACLU of San Diego's Border Litigation Project called NBC 7's report the latest example of abuse of power by the CBP.

"For years, the U.S. government has used the pretext of 'border security' to trample on Americans' constitutional rights. This most recent example is just the latest in a steady stream of CBP abuse of authority, and once again underscores the dire need for meaningful agency oversight and accountability," Ebadolahi said.

### **Journalists Targeted for Border Inspections**

NBC 7 Investigates spoke with seven of the journalists listed on the database as targets for secondary screenings, including freelance photojournalist Ariana Drehsler.

"I'm interested in covering social and political issues," Drehsler said, adding that she covered the migrant caravan in Tijuana for Buzzfeed News and United Press International.

"I think there's a lot of misconceptions, maybe from both sides, about who are these people that are trying to seek asylum," Drehsler said. "So I think as a photojournalist, it is my responsibility to cover that to the best of my abilities."

Drehsler estimated she had crossed the border from San Ysidro dozens of times covering the caravan.



Las Playas de Tijuana on December 9, 2018. At night the beach is lit up with lights from the U.S. side to help US Customs and Border Patrol find people trying to cross illegally. Photo by Ariana Drehsler/UPI

Photo credit: UPI

"I was very transparent about what I was doing," Drehsler said. "Sometimes you would see me carrying a camera and if I was asked by an agent what was I doing, I would tell them I was photographing the [migrant] shelters."

But on December 30, 2018, when Drehsler was crossing back into the United States, she was pulled into secondary inspection and questioned by border agents.

“Two people in plainclothes came down and took me to another room,” Drehsler said. “They questioned me in a small room, asking me questions about the shelter, what was I seeing there, who was I working for.”

“They said that I was on the ground and they’re not, which I thought was really interesting.”

After about an hour, Drehsler said she was allowed to leave but agents warned her that an alert had been placed on her passport and that she would be pulled into a secondary screening again if she crossed the border. The agents told her to plan accordingly, given the screenings could last an hour or more. When she asked why this alert was placed on her passport, agents told her they had no idea.

Drehsler said she was pulled into secondary screenings two more times while crossing the border. Each time she said she was questioned by the same agents in plainclothes. The second time was on Jan. 2, 2019, and the third time was on Jan. 4, 2019.

On the third occasion, Drehsler said she was told to leave her gear, including her camera and cell phone, on a table outside of the interview room. When she returned, she said it didn’t appear to her that the gear had been looked through. Agents asked Drehsler if she could show them the photos she had taken but she said she declined.

Some of the questions agents asked Drehsler on the third screening struck her as odd.

“They asked about the new caravan and if word had gotten out about how difficult it is to seek asylum in the U.S.,” Drehsler said. “Then before I left, the female agent asked if I rented or owned my home.”

Drehsler told NBC 7 the personal details listed for her in the leaked screenshots are accurate. She confirmed the photo officials used came from her passport. The screenshots include a green “X” over Drehsler’s photograph, indicating she had been interviewed by agents.

Sharing the documents with Drehsler, she told NBC 7 she was “blown away.”

“I have so many questions; I have more questions than answers,” she said. “Personally, I don’t understand what [agents] are hoping to find.”

Other journalists and attorneys have previously told news outlets like NPR and The Intercept that they too faced the same kind of increased scrutiny surrounding their work involving the migrant caravan.

Evidence of increased scrutiny of journalists at the border was detailed in an October 2018 report prepared by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ.)

The report identified 37 journalists who said they found the secondary screenings by border officials “invasive,” and said 20 cases involved border agents “conducting warrantless searches of [the journalists’] electronic devices.”

The journalists featured in the leaked documents said they were separated from their electronic devices and gear but had no evidence that agents had gone through their items.

Kitra Cahana is another freelance photojournalist and U.S. citizen listed as a target in the documents. By phone from Honduras, Cahana told NBC 7 she also faced increased scrutiny and was eventually denied entry into Mexico for no apparent reason.



Kitra Cahana is an award-winning freelance documentary photographer, videographer, a photo/video artist.

Photo credit: Kitra Cahana

Cahana's work has been featured in National Geographic magazine, The New York Times and the CBC out of Canada. One night in late December, she said Mexican authorities photographed her passport while she and other journalists were working near the border.

Then, on Jan. 17, 2019, while traveling from Canada to Mexico City, Cahana said she had a connecting flight in Detroit, Michigan. Cahana said in Montreal, her passport was flagged while going through U.S. Customs pre-clearance. Cahana said she was pulled into a secondary screening where border agents asked her a list of questions about her work.

“They were interested in whether I had an assignment when I was going down to cover the caravan,” Cahana said. “And they wanted to know how I was funding my work.”

Cahana said she was asked to explain how freelance photojournalism works, which she found strange. Afterward, her passport was flagged again in Detroit but eventually, she was allowed to board her flight and fly to Mexico City.

But when she arrived in Mexico, her passport was flagged again. Cahana said she brought this to a Mexican official and was taken into a back room with another group of detained individuals.

There, Cahana said her phone was taken away and she couldn't leave the room. When she needed to use the restroom, an agent escorted her.

"I wasn't allowed to be in communication with anyone, I wasn't allowed to contact my embassy," Cahana said. "It was very confusing because my Spanish is quite limited and no one there really spoke English."

Cahana said the whole ordeal lasted 13 hours and in the end, she was denied entry into Mexico. She had to wait until a plane arrived that could take her back to Detroit, where her flight originated.

Since then, Cahana said she tried one more time to cross the border into Mexico.

"I was trying to cross into Mexico through Guatemala to continue my work covering the caravan and then I was denied again," Cahana said.

NBC 7 Investigates confirmed another journalist was denied entry into Mexico after covering the caravan in January. That journalist is also listed in the SharePoint files leaked to NBC 7.

In the documents shared with NBC 7, Cahana confirmed her personal details were accurate and that the photo used is from her passport. Cahana said she's been in contact with the Committee to Protect Journalists and the ACLU as far as the alert placed on her passport, preventing her access to Mexico.

Cahana said the increased scrutiny by border officials could have a chilling effect on freelance journalists covering the border.

"In the current state of journalism, it's really freelancers who are bringing so much news to the public," Cahana said. "And the uncertainty of having an alert placed on your passport and not knowing where and when that's going to prevent you from doing your work is really problematic."

**Correction:** A previous version of this story stated three photojournalists were denied entry into Mexico. After speaking with those involved, it was clarified that only two photojournalists were denied entry into Mexico. The article above has been updated to reflect this.

Want to know if you're on the target list? Have you faced increased scrutiny while covering a story at the border? NBC 7 Investigates wants to hear from you. Contact us at cbptargetlist@nbcuni.com.

**Find this article at:**

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/investigations/Source-Leaked-Documents-Show-the-US-Government-Tracking-Journalists-and-Advocates-Through-a-Secret-Database-506783231.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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# EXHIBIT C



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# PHOTOS: Leaked Documents Show Government Tracking Journalists, Immigration Advocates

By Tom Jones, Mari Payton and Bill Feather

**9 PHOTOS** Mar 7, 2019

Published Mar 7, 2019 at 7:25 AM



The documents obtained by NBC 7 Investigates show the U.S. Government has a secret database of journalists and immigration advocates where agents collected information on them and in some cases, placed alerts on their passports. Those alerts kept at least three photojournali...See More

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Emblazoned on this document are the American and Mexican flags, with a banner that reads: ILU-OASSIS-AMEGA. An official at the Department of Homeland Security said the seal indicates that the documents are a product of the International Liaison Unit (ILU), which coordinates intelligence between Mexico and the United States.

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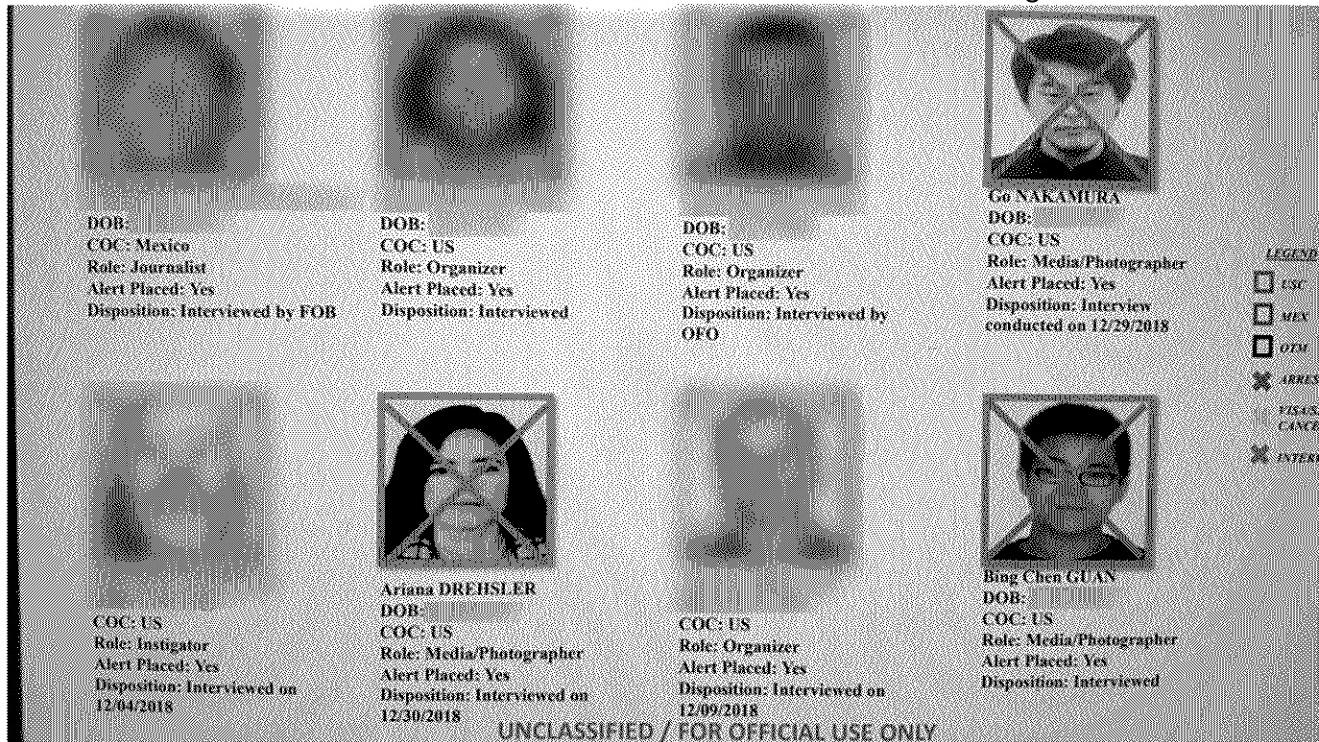
NBC 7 Investigates is blurring the names and photos of individuals who haven't given us permission to publish their information.

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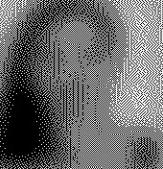
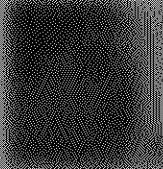
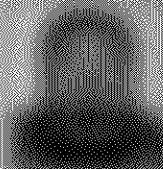
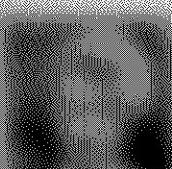
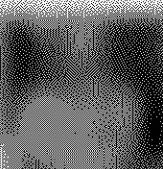
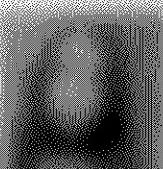
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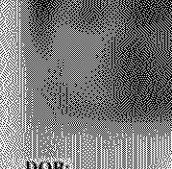
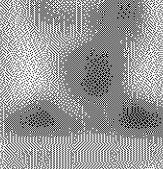
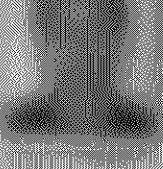
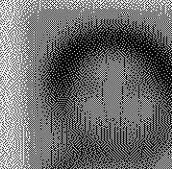
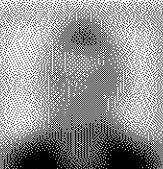
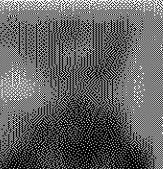
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	<b>Kitra Eden CAHANA</b> DOB: COC: US Role: Media/Photographer Alert Placed: Yes Disposition: Pending Encounter		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: No</b> <b>Disposition: N/A</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: Administrator on Caravan Support Network Facebook page</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>
	<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: Administrator on Caravan Support Network Facebook page</b> <b>Alert Placed: No</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: No</b> <b>Disposition: N/A</b>

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	<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: Administrator on Caravan Support Network Facebook page</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: No</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: Coordinator</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>
	<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: Organizer</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>Nicole Elizabeth RAMOS</b> DOB: COC: US Role: Lawyer Alert Placed: No Disposition: Pending		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: US</b> <b>Role: N/A</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>		<b>DOB:</b> <b>COC: MEX</b> <b>Role: Organizer</b> <b>Alert Placed: Yes</b> <b>Disposition: Pending Encounter</b>

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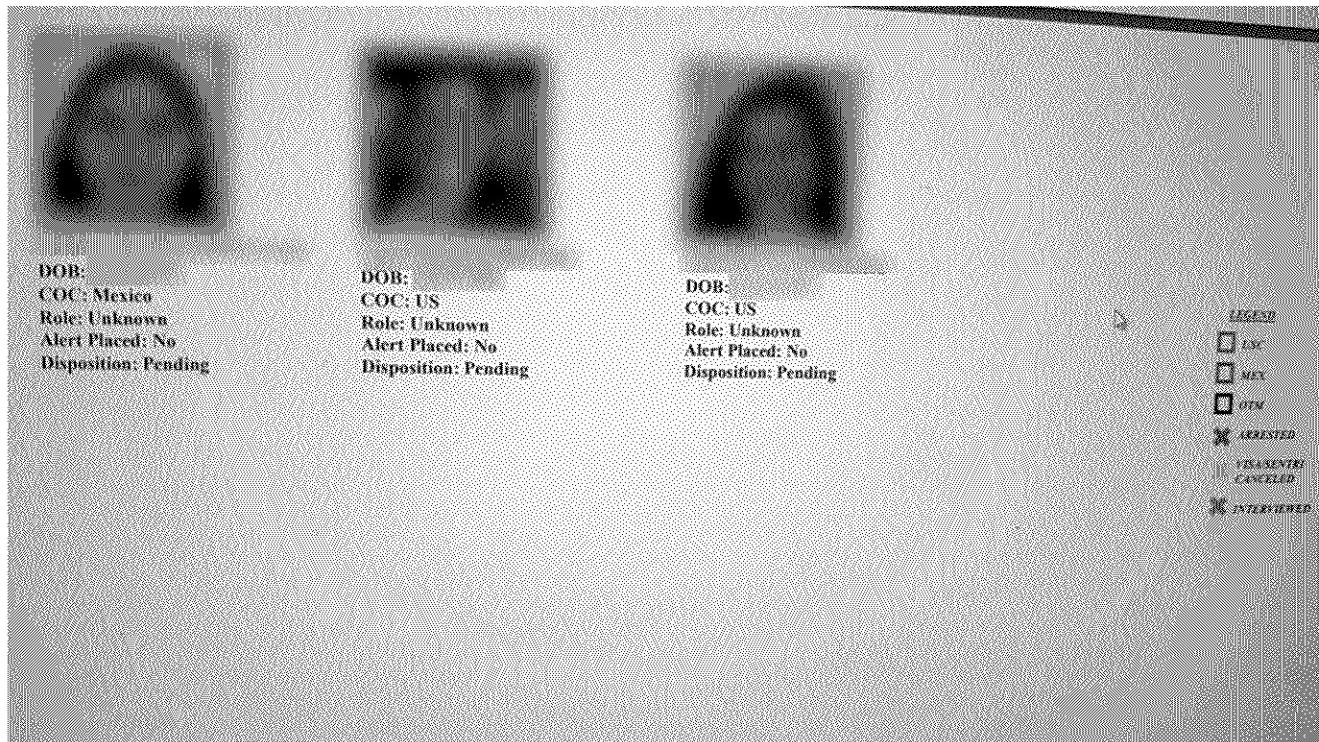
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# EXHIBIT D



IMMIGRATION

## Congress, DHS investigating if U.S. border agents targeted journalists

NBC News and KNSD revealed Wednesday that U.S. border agents in California had a list of reporters, lawyers and activists to be questioned at the border.

March 7, 2019, 6:22 PM EST

By Julia Ainsley

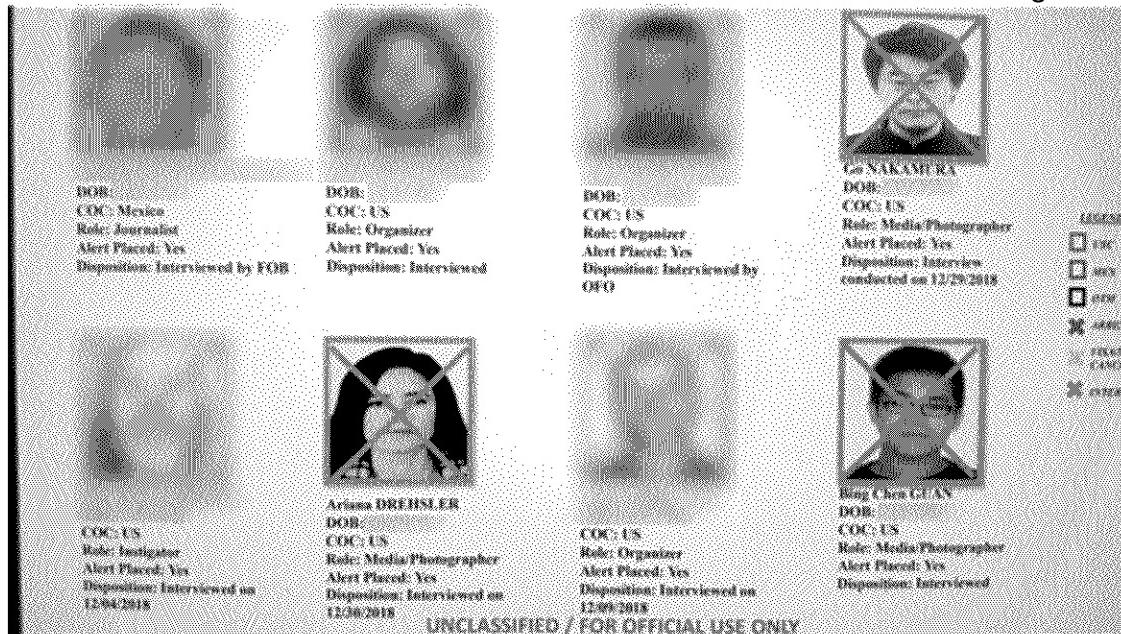
WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security and the House Homeland Security Committee are investigating whether U.S. border agents have been targeting journalists for questioning, according to a statement from Customs and Border Protection and a letter to CBP from the chair of the committee.

The statement and letter were in response to an exclusive story from NBC News and San Diego's KNSD-TV story that revealed CBP officials in the San Diego sector had compiled a list of 59 reporters, lawyers and activists to be pulled aside for further screening when crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The list includes 10 journalists, seven of them U.S. citizens, a U.S.-based attorney and others labeled as organizers and "instigators," 31 of whom are American.

**Click here to read the original NBC News story**

The Homeland Security Committee, led by Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., asked CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan to provide a copy of the list with the 59 names, a copy of any dossiers on the individuals, an explanation of why each person was included on the list, an account of who had been stopped for screening and an account of any cell phone seizures.



A sample of names and photos from the list. KNSD blurred the names and photos of individuals who haven't given permission to publish their information. Obtained by KNSD

"The appearance that CBP is targeting journalists, lawyers, and advocates, and particularly those who work on immigration matters or report on border and immigration issues, raises questions about possible misuse of CBP's border search authority and requires oversight to ensure the protection of Americans' legal and constitutional rights," the letter said.

CBP said Thursday the DHS Inspector General is investigating the list. CBP is part of DHS.

The investigation began in February and is ongoing, according to CBP spokesman Andrew Meehan.

"CBP does not target journalists for inspection based on their occupation or their reporting. CBP has policies in place that prohibit discrimination against arriving travelers and has specific provisions regarding encounters with journalists," Meehan said in the statement.

### [Click here to read the letter from Congress](#)

The investigation is being conducted "to ensure that all appropriate policies and practices were followed," the statement said. The names had been collected, Meehan said, to identify "individuals who may have information relating to the instigators and/or

organizers" of attacks on Border Patrol agents that occurred during incidents at the border in November 2018 and January 2019.

**Click here to read KNSD's story about the list**

Meehan's statement did not say whether the Inspector General was also investigating whether CBP had a policy of stopping other professions, such as attorneys, at the border.



**CBP compiled list of reporters, activists, lawyers to question at border**

MARCH 7, 2019 01:39

Those who had been stopped by CBP for additional screening described being asked for personal details, having to hand over their cell phones and being told they were being held as part of a "national security" investigation.

Meehan said it is standard practice to interview people who had been witnesses to an event under investigation, such as the unrest that occurred at the border between Tijuana, Mexico and San Ysidro, California in November 2018.

But many of those interviewed told NBC News they were not asked about that event, but instead about their work with asylum seekers.



Julia Ainsley

Julia Ainsley is a national security reporter for NBC News.